



COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE

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Outline

Theoretical framework of the research

- What is civic engagement?
- What influences civic engagement?

Data and Operationalization

Research results

- Key question of the research concerns the specificity of factors defining civic engagement across Europe with the focus upon its Eastern part (especially Post-Socialist countries including former USSR countries)

The concept “civic”

- The concept “civic” means “being connected with civicity” which is different both from the “communication” (micro-level) and “state” (macro-level).
- Civicity is seen along with a social part of citizenship (inclusion as helping others) and a political one (concerning political actions and attitudes to them) meaning belonging and acting in a voluntary organizations, as well as being concerned by the problems of a community (Marshall, 1950).

Civic engagement embeddedness

- Framework of social capital (e.g. Ferragina, 2012; Halman, 2006; Kaasa&Parts, 2008; Glanville&Billenstock, 2009)

What is civic engagement?

- *Possessing the knowledge, skills and values needed to enhance the community and their expression through attitudes and behaviour*
 - Cognition – Status – Action
- (Doolittle&Faul, 2013; Glanville&Bienenstock, 2009; Savelyev, 2013)

Hypotheses

- 1) Civic engagement in Europe varies significantly in its patterns (including status-activities and cognition elements) across the line of Post-Socialism.**
 - 1.1) In Post-Socialist Europe the pattern of civic engagement is mostly declarative (without the activity element) while in its non-Post-Socialist part it is balanced in all three dimensions (status-activities-cognition).
 - 1.2) There are no significant differences in the patterns of civic engagement in Post-Soviet and non-Post-Soviet parts of Post-Socialist Europe.
- 2) Factors of civic engagement differ across Europe: while in the most part of Europe prevail contextual, external factors, in its Post-Socialist part dominate individual factors of civic engagement.**

Theoretical framework of civic engagement factors

Contextual factors (country level)	Individual factors (individual level)
Freedom of speech – Index of Freedom House	Age (Oorshot&Arts&Gelissen, 2006)
Ethnic tensions – Ethnic Fractionalization Index (Fearon, 2003)	Being religious, attending religious services (Meulen, 2012)
Access to Internet (Norris, 2001) – Internet coverage by country	Education (Rothwell, Turcotte, 2006; Bekeshkina, 2008)
Socioeconomic environment – GDP per capita	Feeling of control under circumstances (Nishishiba, Nelson and Shinn, 2006)
	Socioeconomic status (Theiss-Morse&Hibbing, 2005)
	Interest to politics (Bekeshkina, 2008)

Research Data

Main data source:

European Values Study data of 2008, 47 countries belonging to different parts of Europe.

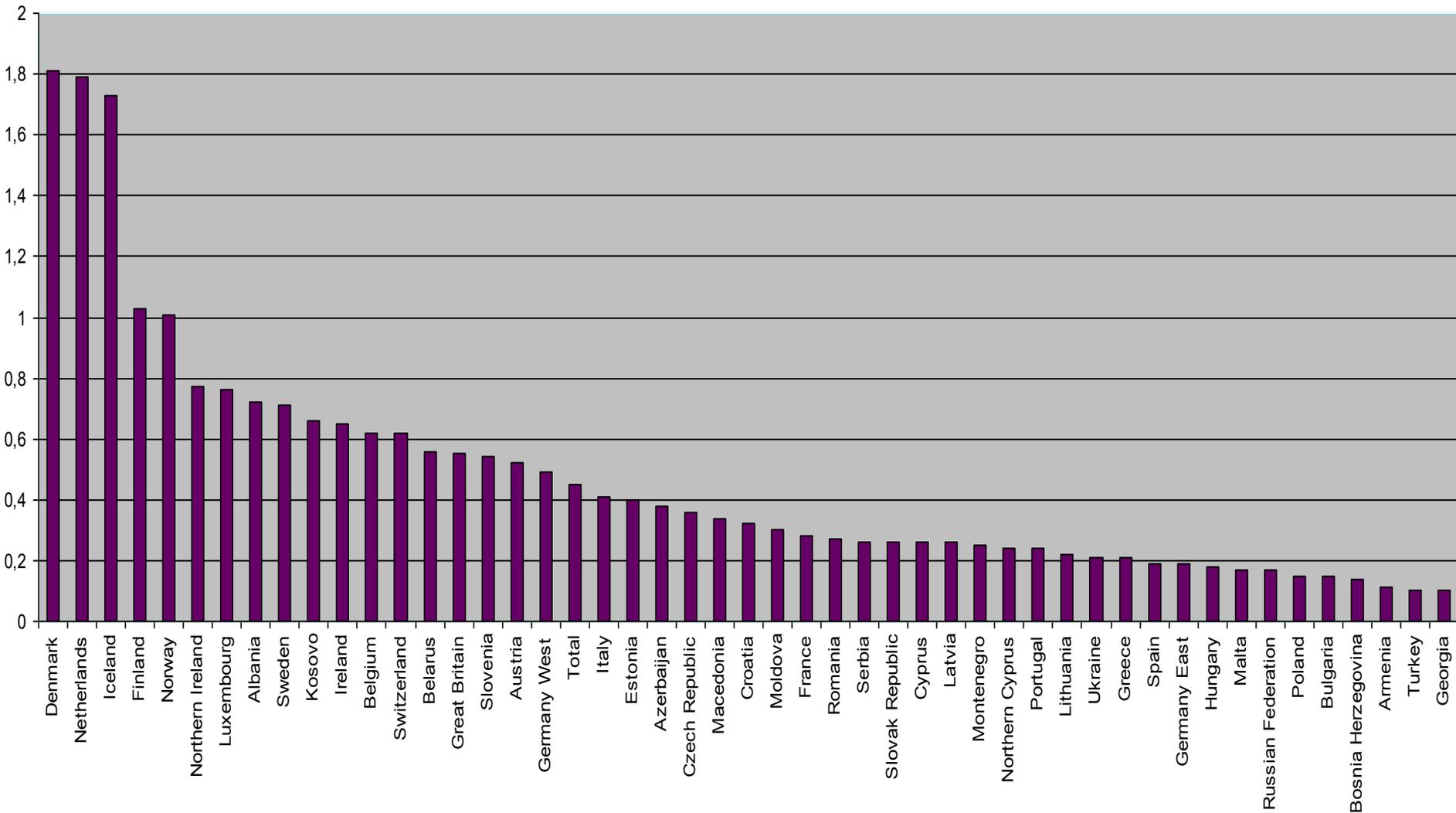
Additionally, data of several databases:

- Index of Freedom House (Freedom in the World) to check the connections of freedom of speech and civic engagement;
- Ethnic Fractionalization Index (Fearon, 2003) to check the relationship of ethnic diversity with civic engagement and
- World Bank data concerning GDP per capita in order to check the relationship of socioeconomic environment of a country and its civic engagement.

Status part operationalization

- Signifies the place of actors within different communities of civic character (excluding politics, social welfare services for deprived people, cultural issues and informal networks).
- *Please look carefully at the following list of voluntary organizations and activities and say which, if any, do you belong to?* 10 answer categories: religious or church organizations (v11); trade unions (v13); local community action on issues like poverty, employment, housing, racial equality (v15); third world development or human rights (v16); conservation, the environment, ecology, animal rights (v17); professional associations (v18); youth work (v19); women's groups (v21); peace movement (v22); voluntary organizations concerned with health (v23).

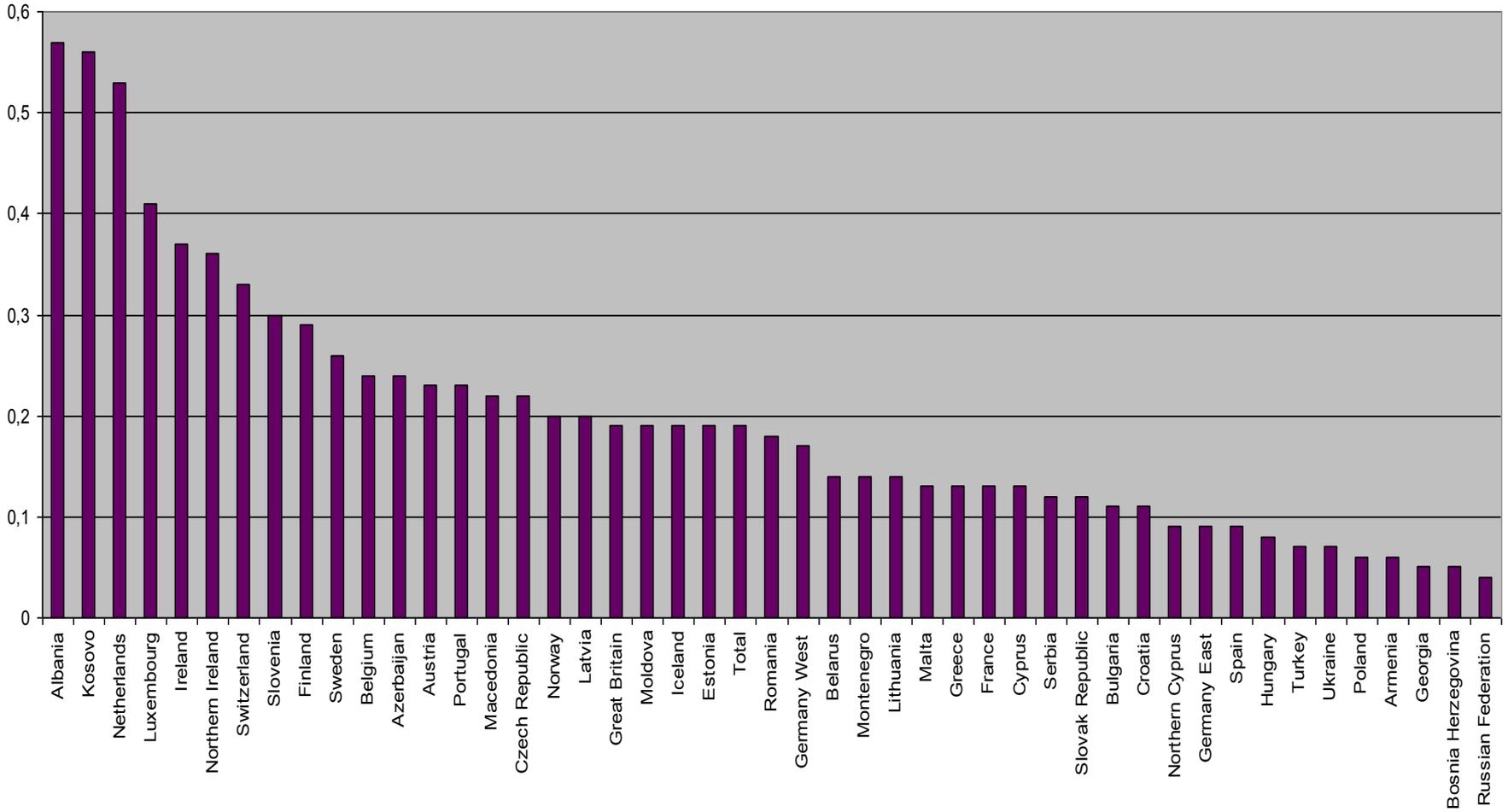
Distribution of status element of civic engagement



Activity part operationalization

- This part is grasped by the question about working in voluntary organizations followed by the same list of organizations (*Do you work there without payment?*) - the same 10 items as mentioned above.

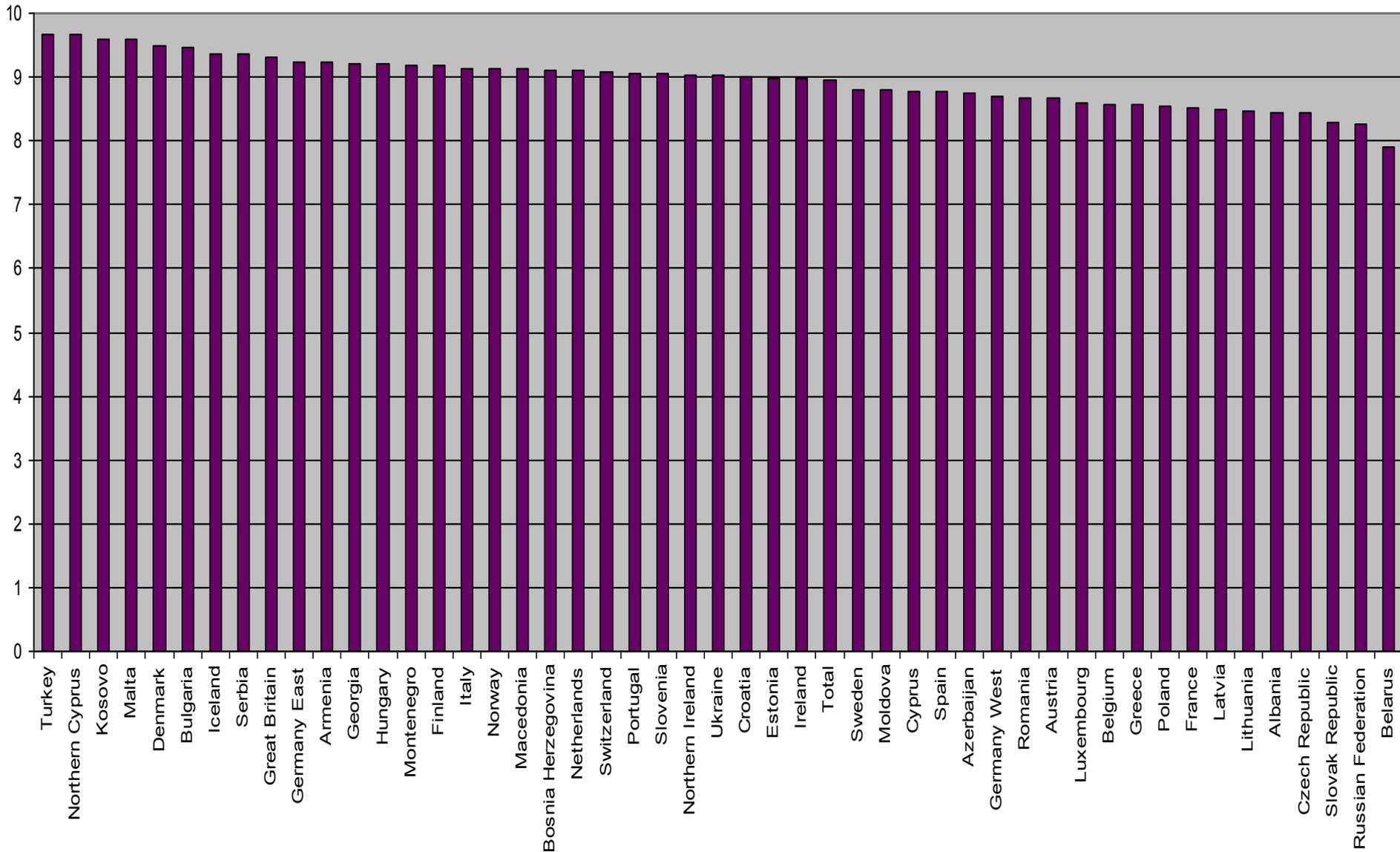
Distribution of activity part of civic engagement



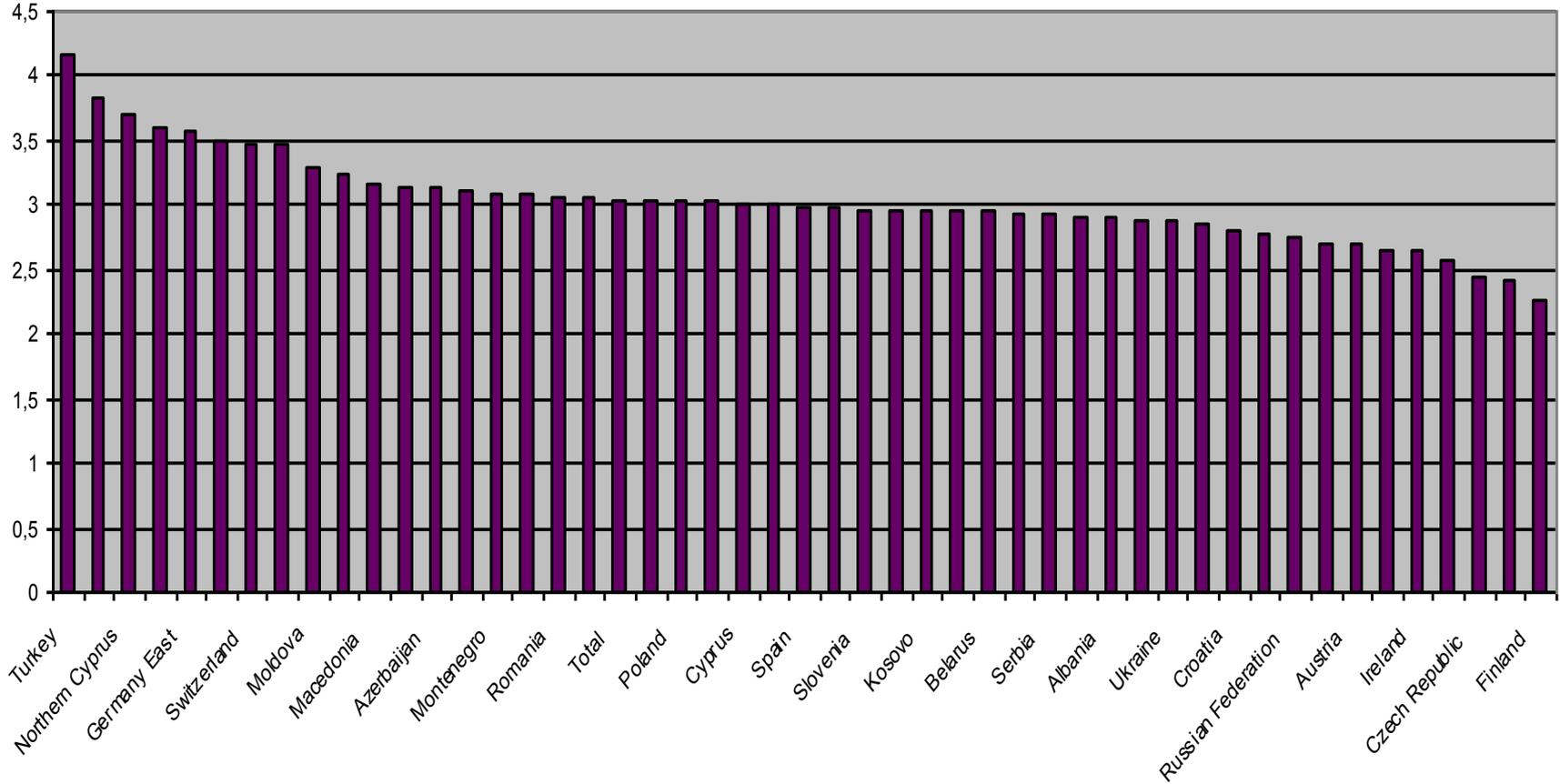
Cognition part operationalization

- Attitudes towards civic commitment and morality (Oorshot et al., 2006) as well as being concerned about the living conditions of people
- *Please tell me for each of the following whether you think it can always be justified, never be justified, or something in between, using this card and refer to such answer categories as “claiming state benefits which you are not entitled to”, “cheating on tax if you have the chance”, “taking and driving away a car belonging to someone else (joyriding), “lying in your own interest”, “Someone accepting a bribe in the course of their duties” on a scale from 0 to 10.*
- *To what extent do you feel concerned about the living conditions of: people in your neighbourhood, the people of the region you live in, your fellow countrymen on a scale from 1 (very much) to 5 (not at all).*

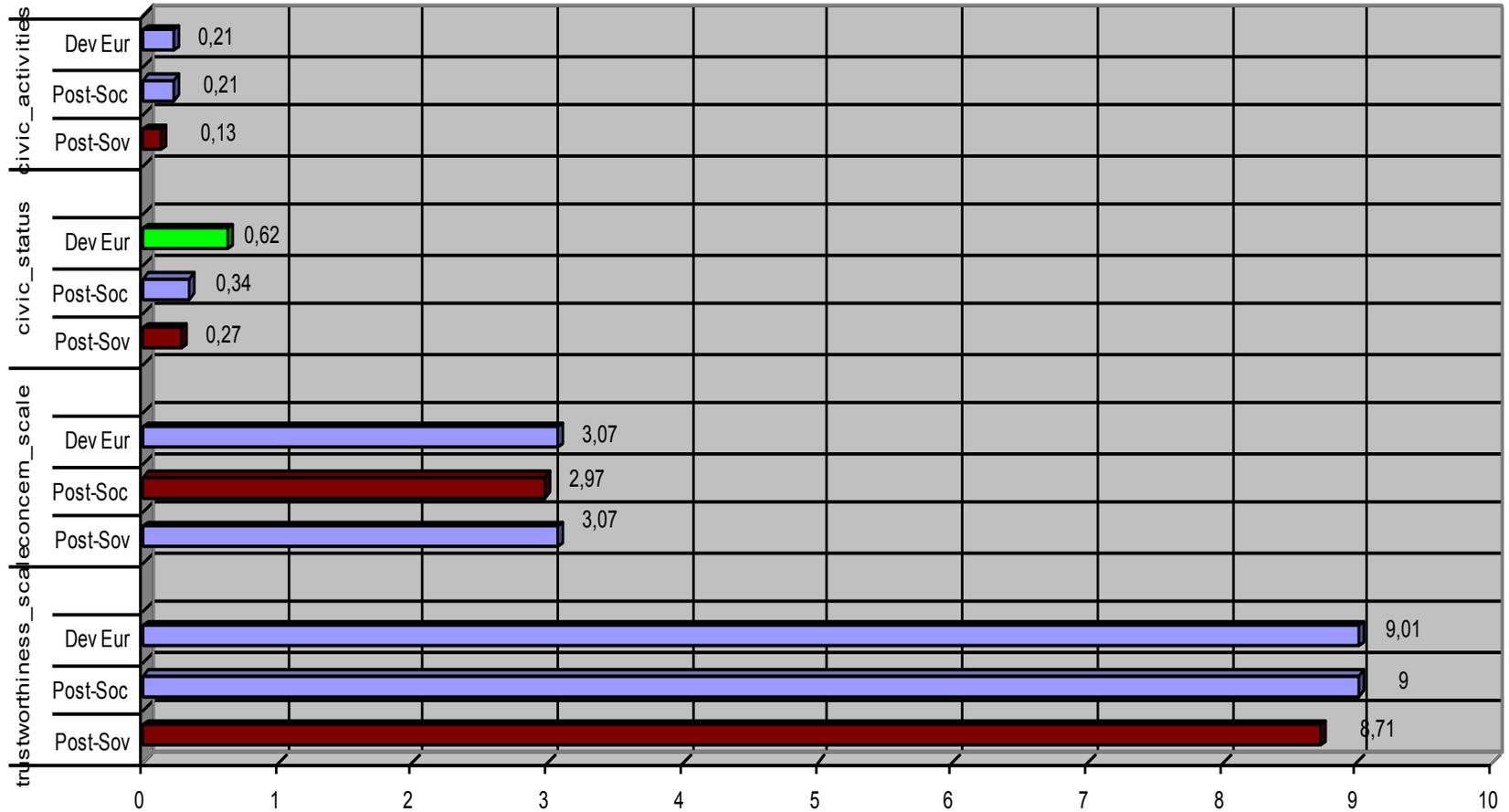
Trustworthiness scale



Concern scale



COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AMONG GROUPS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



Bonferroni multiple comparisons tests.

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

Aggregate data regression analysis

- 1) Civic status scale = $-0,053 + 0,022 \text{ Control} + 0,176 \text{ Education} - 0,015 \text{ Income} - 0,019 \text{ Gender} + 0,087 \text{ Age} - 0,026 \text{ Being Religious}$
- 2) Civic activities scale = $0,122 + 0,061 \text{ Education} + 0,031 \text{ Employment} + 0,011 \text{ Age} - 0,030 \text{ Being religious}$
- 3) Trustworthiness scale = $8,632 - 0,123 \text{ Employment} + 0,269 \text{ Age} - 0,241 \text{ Being religious} + 0,033 \text{ Control} - 0,112 \text{ Gender}$
- 4) Concern scale = $3,157 - 0,097 \text{ Employment} + 0,053 \text{ Age} - 0,165 \text{ Being religious} - 0,008 \text{ Control} + 0,036 \text{ Gender}$

Multiple regression analysis: aggregate interim results

Negative relationship of respondent's **income** towards the civic status scale, concern scale and trustworthiness scale, though it is positive in case of activities scale.

Civic activities scale is the only scale of four where **gender** is not significant (the values of status and trustworthiness scale are higher for women comparing to men; concern scale is the opposite).

Positive effect of **aging** is seen for the trustworthiness scale, concern scale and civic status scale (older people tend to be more engaged), though the scale of civic activities is related to younger people (younger people tend to be involved in activities).

Effect of **being religious** is positive on three dimensions of civic engagement (convinced atheists are less apt to be civically engaged), except for civic activities where this effect is negative.

Control over life is negatively related to concern scale (the less people feel control over their lives, the more they concern about others), but positively related to trustworthiness scale and civic status scale.

Multiple regression analysis: interim results for the Post-Soviet countries

- 1) Civic status scale = $0,210 + 0,063 \text{ Education} + 0,034 \text{ IntPol} - 0,042 \text{ SatDem} + 0,209 \text{ Employment} - 0,07 \text{ Gender} + 0,058 \text{ Being religious}$
- 2) Civic activities scale = $0,231 + 0,027 \text{ Education} + 0,03 \text{ IntPol} - 0,032 \text{ SatDem} + 0,093 \text{ Employment} - 0,031 \text{ Gender}$
- 3) Concern scale = $3,447 + 0,156 \text{ IntPol} - 0,161 \text{ Employment} + 0,046 \text{ Gender} - 0,152 \text{ Being religious} + 0,054 \text{ Attend} + 0,029 \text{ Age}$
- 4) Trustworthiness scale = $9,146 + 0,118 \text{ IntPol} - 0,211 \text{ Employment} - 0,098 \text{ Gender} - 0,322 \text{ Being Religious} - 0,018 \text{ Attend} + 0,269 \text{ Age} - 0,01 \text{ Control}$

! Religion, Employment

Multiple regression analysis: interim results for the other Post- Socialist countries

- 1) Civic status scale = $0,541 + 0,064 \text{ IntPol} + 0,048 \text{ Employment} - 0,07 \text{ Being Religious} + 0,01 \text{ Attend} - 0,039 \text{ Age} + 0,091 \text{ Education}$
- 2) Civic activities scale = $0,406 + 0,039 \text{ IntPol} - 0,047 \text{ Being Religious} - 0,036 \text{ Age} + 0,057 \text{ Education}$
- 3) Concern scale = $3,278 + 0,1 \text{ IntPol} - 0,091 \text{ Being Religious} + 0,06 \text{ Age} - 0,025 \text{ Education} - 0,037 \text{ Employment}$
- 4) Trustworthiness scale = $8,905 + 0,06 \text{ IntPol} - 0,232 \text{ Being Religious} + 0,257 \text{ Age} + 0,073 \text{ Education} - 0,111 \text{ Employment} - 0,186 \text{ Gender} + 0,016 \text{ Control}$

! Employment, Age, Education, Locus control

Multiple regression analysis: interim results for the countries of developed Europe

- 1) Civic status scale = $0,459 + 0,177 \text{ IntPol} - 0,089 \text{ Being Religious} + 0,145 \text{ Age} + 0,257 \text{ Education} + 0,213 \text{ Employment} - 0,94 \text{ Gender} + 0,023 \text{ Control}$
- 2) Civic activities scale = $0,299 + 0,06 \text{ IntPol} - 0,05 \text{ Being Religious} + 0,03 \text{ Age} + 0,076 \text{ Education} + 0,021 \text{ Employment}$
- 3) Concern scale = $3,939 + 0,119 \text{ IntPol} - 0,23 \text{ Being Religious} - 0,08 \text{ Education} - 0,107 \text{ Employment} - 0,02 \text{ Control}$
- 4) Trustworthiness scale = $8,637 + 0,033 \text{ IntPol} - 0,23 \text{ Being Religious} - 0,034 \text{ Education} - 0,091 \text{ Employment} + 0,057 \text{ Control} - 0,128 \text{ Gender} + 0,251 \text{ Age}$

! Employment, Education, Locus control, Being religious

Conclusions

- Post-Soviet part of Post-Socialist Europe is much more different in the patterns of civic engagement from other parts of Europe than it was expected due to its long-time system transition.
- The pattern of civic engagement in Post-Socialist Europe is not so balanced along the dimension of status-activities-cognition as it is in the countries of developed Europe, but there is no factual substantiation of the “Post-Socialism line” between different patterns of civic engagement. It may be interpreted both in terms of globalization tendencies and rethinking social identities and the place of civic inside of them.

- Thank you for your attention!